

Meningitis and Septicaemia 2019
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Meningitis sequelae, their impact, and follow up care in low income countries – how much do we know?

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In those who survive meningitis the long-term outcome is uncertain; individuals may suffer neurocognitive, functional and psychiatric impairment which may have significant effect on their ability to lead their lives as they did prior to their diagnosis. In children who survive, severe illness may have occurred at a crucial time point in development leading to functional impairments, behavioural and cognitive delay. In low income countries (LICs) the extent and nature of this impairment is poorly understood. This is in large part due to limited laboratory resources for identifying causative pathogens, a lack of observational studies and inconsistent inclusion of outcome measures which can quantify these deficits in clinical studies. For the majority of children surviving meningitis in LICs follow-up post hospital discharge is limited, with a lack of culturally appropriate neurodevelopmental assessment tools and limited resources to provide effective therapy where needed.